

Lee Harvey Oswald and His Fingerprint Records

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"The Warren Commission seems not to have noticed the discrepancies . . . Nowhere do we find the reasons for the stamped and handwritten dates on the Master card."

The Armed Forces fingerprint card for Lee Harvey Oswald originated when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on October 24, 1956. This card is reprinted in Volume 17, page 289 and was designated Commission Exhibit 635 during the Hearings Before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. There are several dates stamped on the reverse side of this fingerprint card: November 16, 1959, March 1, 1960, December 1 (?), 1961, February 25, 1962, and August 15, 1963. There are also two handwritten dates: October 31, 1959 and November 5, 1959.

If these dates represent the dates Lee Harvey Oswald's Master Fingerprint Card was pulled for comparison purposes, one questions why November 22, 1963 or a subsequent date does not appear on the card.

On October 31, 1959, Lee Harvey Oswald went to the American Embassy in Moscow and, if we are to believe the Embassy officials, threatened to reveal certain military secrets he had learned while at Atsugi Naval Air Station in Japan where U-2 flights had originated. It is interesting to note that six months after the Oswald defection, May 1, 1960, Gary Powers' U-2 plane was brought down over the Soviet Union. This may explain the October 31, 1959 date stamped on the Master Card. Could the American Embassy officials have fingerprinted Oswald that day and sent the classification to Washington?

On August 9, 1963, Oswald was arrested on a charge of disturbing the peace by creating a scene. On August 10, 1963, at Oswald's request, FBI agent John L. Quigley interviewed Oswald at the First District Police Station, New Orleans, LA. During the interview Oswald gave details of his arrest the previous day. Agent Milton R. Kaach filed a report captioned, "Lee Harvey Oswald, Internal Security - R- Cuba". This could explain the stamped date of August 15, 1963 on Oswald's card.

There are certain other dates stamped on this card that, as of the present, cannot be explained by available material. I have written three letters to FBI Director Clarence Kelley, asking the significance of the dates. Mr. Kelley's first reply, of January 14, 1976, stated, "For your information, the dates referred to in your letter are internal processing markings of the FBI Identification Division. The stamped dates are dates this fingerprint card was filed. The October 31, 1959 date indicates the date the fingerprint card was reviewed for background information for a member of our Headquarters staff. The November 5, 1959 date indicates the date the fingerprint classification formula, as it appears on the front of the fingerprint card, was rechecked for correctness."

In a subsequent letter I asked Director Kelley who pulled the fingerprint card and why the other dates appear on the card. He answered on January 28, 1976, by stating, "the specific identity of these personnel is exempt from disclosure to you by the following subsections of Title 5, the United States Code, Section 552:b7C, and b7f." Notice Kelley does not even mention the other half of my question, namely the importance of the other dates. He has avoided the question by ignoring it — why?

Lee Harvey Oswald's Master Fingerprint card bears a stamped number: 327-925-D. This number is important because the fingerprint card made after Oswald's arrest in Dallas, Texas on November 22, 1963, bears the handwritten number 327-925-D and yet no stamped or handwritten date appears, indicating Oswald's prints or a classification of them were sent to Washington on November 22, 1963 or thereafter! If the card was pulled out of the file in Washington on or about November 22, 1963, why was it not stamped accordingly? How was the number 327-925-D obtained for the Dallas Police Department if the card in Washington was not pulled out of the file for comparison purposes?

Is it possible that the fingerprints from the Master Card were never compared to those made in Dallas after the arrest? Sebastian F. Latona, supervisor of the Latent Fingerprint Section of the Identification Division of the FBI was called to testify about the Oswald fingerprints on April 2, 1964. His testimony seems to indicate that the fingerprints were not compared. Latona testified to Assistant Counsel Melvin A. Eisenberg as follows:

Eisenberg: Now, in addition, did the Federal Bureau of Investigation have in its files prints of Lee Harvey Oswald which it had received at some earlier date, prior to November 22, 1963?

Latona: Yes sir: I believe there is a Marine Corps print.

Eisenberg: Would those prints have been taken by the FBI?

Latona: No, they would not.

Eisenberg: They were taken by —

Latona: The regular service.

Eisenberg: And forwarded to the FBI?

Latona: That's right.

Eisenberg: Did you compare the 10-finger card which you received from the Dallas office of the FBI and compare it with the Marine fingerprint card?

Latona: Yes sir.

Eisenberg: Were they identical?

Latona: They were the same.(4H16)

How can Latona at first say that he "believes" there is a Marine Corps card and seconds later say that he compared them to the Dallas fingerprints? If he

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The Broken Promise of the United States, of Reparations to Vietnam

Richard M. Nixon
formerly President of the United States

"The Government of the United States of America will contribute to postwar reconstruction in North Vietnam without any political conditions. ... The United States contribution to postwar reconstruction will fall in the range of \$3.25 billion"

From: Arlene Atwater, Staff Assistant
Committee on International Relations
House of Representatives
Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Attached as you requested is a copy of the Feb. 1, 1973 letter from President Nixon to the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Text of Message from the President of the United States to the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

February 1, 1973

The President wishes to inform the Democratic Republic of Vietnam of the principles which will govern United States participation in the postwar reconstruction of North Vietnam. As indicated in Article 21 of The Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam signed in Paris on January 27, 1973, the United States undertakes this participation in accordance with its traditional policies. These principles are as follows:

1) The Government of the United States of America will contribute to postwar reconstruction in North Vietnam without any political conditions.

2) Preliminary United States studies indicate that the appropriate programs for the United States contribution to postwar reconstruction will fall in the range of \$3.25 billion of grant aid over five years. Other forms of aid will be agreed upon between the two parties. This estimate is subject to revision and to detailed discussion between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

3) The United States will propose to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam the establishment of a United States-North Vietnamese Joint Economic Commission within 30 days from the date of this message.

4) The function of this Commission will be to develop programs for the United States contribution to reconstruction of North Vietnam. This United States contribution will be based upon such factors as:

- a) The needs of North Vietnam arising from the dislocation of war;
- b) The requirements for postwar reconstruction in the agricultural and industrial sectors of North Vietnam's economy.

5) The Joint Economic Commission will have an equal number of representatives from each side. It will agree upon a mechanism to administer the program

which will constitute the United States contribution to the reconstruction of North Vietnam. The Commission will attempt to complete this agreement within 60 days after its establishment.

6) The two members of the Commission will function on the principle of respect for each other's sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit. The offices of the Commission will be located at a place to be agreed upon by the United States and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

7) The United States considers that the implementation of the foregoing principles will promote economic, trade and other relations between the United States of America and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and will contribute to insuring a stable and lasting peace in Indochina. These principles accord with the spirit of Chapter VIII of The Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam which was signed in Paris on January 27, 1973.

Understanding Regarding Economic Reconstruction Program

It is understood that the recommendations of the Joint Economic Commission mentioned in the President's note to the Prime Minister will be implemented by each member in accordance with its own constitutional provisions.

Note Regarding Other Forms of Aid

In regard to other forms of aid, United States studies indicate that the appropriate programs could fall in the range of 1 to 1.5 billion dollars depending on food and other commodity needs of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. □

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compared them, why the uncertainty on the question of the Marine card?

Later in his testimony, the Dallas fingerprint card is again mentioned:

Eisenberg: Mr. Latona, Exhibit 630, which is one of the known 10-print cards submitted by the Dallas office, is marked "Refused to sign" in the box with the caption "Signature of person fingerprinted". Do you recall whether Lee Harvey Oswald signed the Marine Corps card?

Latona: Offhand, I do not. (4H17)

Sebastian Latona, who as of 1964 had spent 32 years with the FBI, did not even notice if the Marine card was signed. One reason he may not have noticed is because he never compared the two 10-print cards. It seems utterly unbelievable that one of J. Edgar Hoover's men would overlook such important documentation.

The Warren Commission appears not to have noticed the discrepancies in Mr. Latona's statements. Nowhere do we find the reasons for the stamped and handwritten dates on the Master card. And finally, the Commission does not tell us how number 327-925-D was obtained and written on the Dallas fingerprint card without the Master card's being pulled from the file in Washington. Any answers, Mr. Kelley? □